

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims of this application in light of the present amendment.

The Examiner allowed claims 10-25 and objected to dependent claim 9 (which depended directly from independent claim 1) and indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

In the present amendment, Applicants have included the limitations of dependent claim 9 (which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter) in independent claim 1 and cancelled original claim 9. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 are now allowable as they each contain the limitations of claim 9.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 10-25. As noted above, claims 26-28 are also pending. Since claims 26-28 depend directly on allowable claims, they should also be allowable.

In addition, Applicants have amended the claims to put them in better form:

Independent Claim 1 was also amended to replace the “period” at the end of step (c) with “; and” ;

Dependent claims 2-8, 11-19, and 21-28 were amended to replace the indefinite article “A” with the definite article “The” as the first word;

Independent claim 10 was amended to correct the spelling of “membrane” in the second line of step (c), add the word “and” at the end of step (g), and to replace the semicolon at the end of step (h) with a period;

Dependent claim 16 was also amended to remove a duplicate word;

Independent claim 20 was amended to replace the word “is” with the word “for” in the preamble and to add the word “and” at the end of step (f); and

Dependent claims 27 and 28 were also amended to improve readability.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

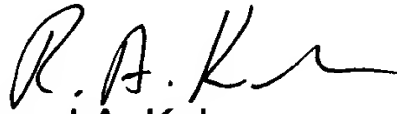
Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1-8 and 10-28 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that this case be passed to issuance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in the Application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By:


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